

White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education Staff

The White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (Initiative) Staff administers Executive Order 13592 (December 2, 2011), Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Educational Opportunities and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities. The Executive Order seeks to support activities that will strengthen the Nation by expanding education opportunities and improving education outcomes for all AIAN students in order to fulfill our commitment to furthering tribal self-determination and to help ensure that AIAN students have an opportunity to learn their Native languages and histories and receive complete and competitive educations that prepare them for college, careers, and productive and satisfying lives. It also is committed to improving educational opportunities for students attending tribal colleges and universities (TCUs). TCUs maintain, preserve, and restore Native languages and cultural traditions; offer a high-quality college education; provide career and technical education, job training, and other career-building programs; and often serve as anchors in some of the country's poorest and remote areas.

In performing its responsibilities, the Staff:

- Works closely with the Executive Office of the President to help ensure AIAN participation in the development and implementation of key Administration priorities;
- Strengthens the relationship between the Department of Education, Office of Indian Education, and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education, to draw upon each agencies' expertise and resources to help improve AIAN education;
- Furthers tribal sovereignty by supporting efforts, consistent with applicable law, to build the capacity of tribal educational agencies and TCUs to provide high-quality education services to AIAN children;
- Develops sufficient data resources to inform progress on Federal performance indicators, in close collaboration with the National Center for Educational Statistics;
- Encourages and coordinates Federal partnerships with public, private, philanthropic, and nonprofit entities to help increase the readiness of AIAN students for school, college, and careers, and to help increase the number and percentage of AIAN students complete college;
- Coordinates the overall implementation of the Executive Order and the development of the federal four-year plans and annual federal agency reporting, and hold federal agencies accountable for fulfilling requirements of the Executive Order, submitting plans, and addressing emerging needs of AIAN academic achievement;
- Coordinates frequent consultations with tribal officials and provides support to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE);
- Develops a national network of individuals, organizations, and communities to share best practices in AIAN education and encouraging them to implement these practices;
- Increases the number and percentage of AIAN students who have access to excellent teachers and school leaders, including effective science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), language, and special education teachers, in part by supporting efforts to improve the recruitment, development, and retention of effective AIAN teachers and other effective teachers and school leaders, particularly through TCUs.